

Community Appearance Commission

Minutes

May 4, 2005

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, May 4, 2005 at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chamber, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Greta Connor, Judy Kandl, Chad Morgan, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, and Bill Safrit

Absent: Cindee Bridges, Suzette Davis, Barbara Lawther, Michael Lippard, and Johnny Safrit

Staff: Lynn Raker and Diana Moghrabi

Judy Kandl, Barbara Perry and Greta Connor joined Lynn Raker in the greeting and orientation of newcomers Chad Morgan and Sara Robinson thirty minutes before the meeting.

The minutes of the April 6 meeting were approved as written. The financial report was accepted.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Phyllis Galloway of Livingstone College spoke to members of the Commission about the need for assistance at the Poets and Dreamers Garden. Bruce Wilson had mentioned this worthy cause at a recent CAC meeting. Dr. Galloway is the Director of Heritage Hall and gave a history of Livingstone College and the archives and artifacts that are located in Heritage Hall. Dr. Galloway works in this building and part of her responsibility is maintaining the archives of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

The Poets and Dreamers Garden is divided into various plots like the Shakespearean Garden and The International Garden. There is a special effort to install plants in the Biblical Garden. A brochure from 1967 was passed around to show what the garden looked like when it was first dedicated. Faculty and students are encouraged to participate in the life of the garden; it has suffered from economic problems. Currently the college employs two gardeners to help tend to the garden. The “wish list” of the Poets and Dreamers Garden includes parts to keep the fountain operational; professional advice about maintenance; restocking the fishpond and adding lily pads; replacing three cypress trees; spray painting garden signs; painting the tool shed; and mulch is needed. The stone walkways are difficult to walk on, so they would like to pave a walkway in the garden.

Cash donations are encouraged. No grant applications have been submitted for the garden because the college had applied for these grants for other needs. No cost estimates have been

figured. Dr. Galloway did not know what the college had budgeted for the upkeep of the garden. A committee has been formed by the college to oversee the progress.

Members of the Commission plan to make an appointment with Dr. Galloway to visit the garden in order to assess what the CAC can contribute. The Commission has concerns about ongoing maintenance by the college if time and money are invested now. Lynn Raker requested a list of the plants and/or a landscape design.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Art in Public Places

HAT (History and Art Trail). Barbara Perry reported that the Proctor Foundation has awarded a \$10,000 grant at this time. The Woodson Foundation granted \$5,000. The committee continues to work on the marker system.

The committee meets on the second Thursday of each month at 8 a.m. at 100 W. Innes St. (The Plaza) on the second floor. The history subcommittee is presently meeting to work on the text for the markers.

Mosaic. Mr. Robert Crum, Artist, has offered to have a fundraiser for the mosaic on Depot Street at his gallery. The Commission members will be helping during the Spring Night Out Friday, May 6 from 5-10 p.m. Those offering a donation of \$100 will receive a watercolor print of the artist's preliminary sketches of the mosaic. For a \$200 donation, a donor may receive their choice of either of the two prints framed by Fine Frame Gallery. (This is a corrected donation amount.)

Railroad Bridge. The landscaping plan for the bridge is complete. An amount of \$15,000 will be spent by June 30; this money will not cover all of the plants specified and the installation. Significant hollies will be installed on each end that could be used for the holiday decorations. Electricity and water are available. The lights have arrived; the poles should be here any time. They should be up a few days after their arrival. The lights will be 12 feet above the surface at each point creating a slight arch.

Downtown Holiday Decorations. The CAC will be contributing ideas for Christmas decorations at the Railroad Bridge (a.k.a – The Gateway Bridge). The decorations should be of appropriate scale, and blend with the historic atmosphere of the gateway into downtown. Tinsel is not in the plan. Chad Morgan has many wonderful ideas he plans to contribute. The decorations should be up for the parade and come down soon after the new year begins.

The planters at “the square” will be decorated for the holidays by the CAC. Chad had more wonderful ideas for the planters that may discourage vandalism. He suggested continuity between the bridge decorations and the decoration of the planters.

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

- *Spring Spruce-Up, April 25-29.* It was a successful event. Steve Weatherford reported that 248 appliances and other metal objects were picked up, along with 107 old tires. Sanitation crews reported that 10-12 extra tons of trash was picked up, too. The public was very grateful for this extra effort.
- *Lawn parking.* Greta Connor learned from Pat Sylvester that a member of the City Council has suggested that a proposal to eliminate habitual parking on front lawns should come from the CAC. Public input would be most welcome. Staff is talking to the Mayor and City Manager about the issue. It may be handled through the proposed Land Development Ordinance Code. There was an open discussion about parking on lawns. A subcommittee will continue with this which includes Bill Safrit. Members of the community will be contacted to participate.
- *May 19 & 20 Leadership Training.* It is believed that the \$125 fee for the training is out of reach for people that it would truly benefit. Getting a team together is proving difficult, too.
- Greta Connor went to “S.N.A.G.” today. This Salisbury Neighborhood Action Group is sponsored by the Police Department. They meet the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Salisbury Housing Authority, 200 South Boundary Street. Sedgefield Acres reported the appearance of prostitution in their area. (Note: The following day the Salisbury Post reported 10 arrests in a sting operation – credit to the neighbors.)

Landscaping

- *Yard of the Month.* Mr. & Mrs. Evans sent a nice letter in response to the Yard of the Month award they received. Cindee Bridges will provide the names of the winners for May/June. 1910 Bringle Ferry is the residential recipient of the award.

Municipal Service District (MSD) and Innes Street Improvement Grants (ISG)

- Robert Crum’s awnings at 116 E. Council have been installed.
- The Firehouse Urban Lofts construction is moving along.

NEW BUSINESS

- Committee assignments will be announced at the next meeting. If you have a special interest, please let Barbara Perry or Lynn Raker know. Cindee Bridges will chair the Landscaping Committee; Greta Connor will chair Neighborhoods and Education. Barbara Perry asked Judy Kandl and Chad Morgan to work on the awards banquet.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned.